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REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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COUNTRY USSR/East Germany

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DATE OF INFORMATION [REDACTED]

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PLACE ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

A. Mobilization and Pre-Military Training

Registration

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1. [REDACTED] first registered with the voyenkomat in the city of Aldan (N 58-37, E 125-24), Yakutsk ASSR. [REDACTED]

a. Pre-military Training

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2. [REDACTED] never had pre-induction military training of any kind and thought that "110 hours training" was given only to men who were past draft age, i.e., men who had previously been rejected or deferred for vocational and educational purposes; he also included veterans who had completed their obligatory military service in this group. [REDACTED] these persons began this training approximately two years after demobilization and continued the training up to the age of 50 or 55. [REDACTED] this training was completely separate from DOSAAF training.

Pre-induction Physicals

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3. [REDACTED] made his second appearance before the voyenkomat [REDACTED] At that time, he received a thorough physical examination which consisted of a chest X-ray, eye examination, testing of the reflexes, heart examination, and several other tests [REDACTED] At no time [REDACTED] see or hear of any women being inducted or reporting for a physical examination at the Aldan Voenkomat.

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4. [] ordered [] again to appear before the voyenkomat to receive another physical examination; this examination was very cursory and rushed. Although [] no explanation, many of the men did not receive the full examination and were rushed through several of the examination stations. [] no one was rejected or deferred as a result of the examination.

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Deferments

5. [] deferments were granted to young men who attended tekhnikums or studied for the engineering professions; however, in 1953, all deferments of this type were cancelled and the men were inducted. [] had a friend who was studying to be an electrical engineer at a tekhnikum near Aldan. Prior to 1953, [] friend had received deferments, but when he had only one year to complete his course he was inducted.

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6. [] did not know how or if the voyenkomat and the labor reserve divided young men into categories for the military and labor services. If an employer felt that one of his workers was essential, he submitted a written request to the voyenkomat to defer the employee. However, the voyenkomat made all decisions in granting such deferments. Military needs came first and the quota had to be filled, regardless of how essential a man was in his job, he was inducted if the voyenkomat needed him to fill their quota.

Induction

7. []

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8. [] About 400 men reported for induction that day and all were from the 1930-1934 classes. These men were split into three groups and taken to various unknown units for basic training. Twenty men were selected at the voyenkomat to be trained as truck drivers and were picked up at the voyenkomat by an officer with a truck and presumably taken to the officer's unit. One of the groups was told that they were to be taken to Irkutsk (N 52-16, E 104-20), where they would be put on a boat but [] had no further information about this group.

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9. [] group of about 120 men was taken by ZIS-150 trucks to Karymakaya (coordinates unknown), near Aldan, where they were put on a train and brought to Railroad Siding #77, about 50 km northwest of Dauriya (N 49-50, E 116-50). From there, they walked several kilometers to a military caserne. [] this caserne as that of the 6th "Red Banner" Medz Div of the Trans-Baikal Military District. 1

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Medical Rejections and Individual Measures Used to Insure Failure

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10. When [] group arrived in their unit for basic training, they were given another physical examination and about four shots. [] At that time, about 20 men were rejected and sent back to civilian life. [] there were several cases of tuberculosis and some very bad cases of stomach ulcers which warranted rejections.

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11. There were several methods used by men to obtain rejections from military duty.

These methods are as follows:

- a. To breathe powdered sugar before to an X-ray to scar the lungs to indicate tuberculosis. After the X-ray, the individual had to force fats or butter into the lungs in small quantities because the sugar left alone in the lungs would do permanent damage.
- b. To put tobacco into boiling water and drink the mixture. This caused a very high pulse beat and indicated a weak heart.
- c. To smoke tea to quicken the pulse beat which would indicate a weak heart.

Assignment

- a. Travel through the USSR

(1) Route

12. They traveled by rail to Frankfurt/Oder. They crossed East Prussia, Poland, and East Germany, changing trains at Chernyakhovsk (N 54-39, E 21-50), Leningrad Oblast. This entire trip lasted 20 days - 17 days in the USSR and three in Poland. At Chernyakhovsk, they changed from the four-axle railroad cars used in the USSR to two-axle railroad cars for the remainder of the trip to Frankfurt/Oder. As the train crossed the USSR, the train number was changed at each stop. These changes were announced to all the troops at each station where they stopped in order to minimize the chances of straying or getting lost.

(2) Transport Equipment

13. group traveled through the USSR in freight cars with 70 men in each car. There were wooden planks in two tiers at both ends and along one side of the car. The freight car was actually divided into two sections with a partition across the width. Each section of the car had three men on duty every day. One man served as CQ and the other two as firemen for the stove in each section of the car.

(3) Feeding of Troops

14. group received two meals of dry rations a day. Each meal consisted of some condiments, sugar, and 500 grams of bread. The train made one stop daily to pick up the rations. They were picked up by an NCO who brought them back to the cars and immediately broke them down for each man. Water was available on the train in the two large buckets kept in the section. One bucket contained cold water while the second was kept on the hot stove to make tea. Water was also picked up at each station.

15. When the train made its daily stop in a city, a third hot meal was served. This meal consisted of a soup and some groats, but source did not know who was responsible for the preparation of this meal. In the USSR, on these occasions, the men were free to roam around the station area

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and the meal was served in the station. In Poland, all meals were served on the train.

(4) Train Cadre

16. Officers and NCOs who made the trip [redacted] were from units stationed in Germany. [redacted] they had made the trip from Germany to the USSR expressly for the purpose of acting as a cadre on the train and that these men came from units stationed near Frankfurt/Oder. At the completion of the journey, they returned to their units. [redacted]

(5) Other Details

17. While in the USSR, the train traveled during the daylight hours and the hours of darkness. However, when going through Poland, they moved only during daylight hours. [redacted] the reason for this was fear of rail sabotage but this was only talk among the troops. At night, the train halted at abandoned railroad stations or at the outskirts of a city so that the men could go to the latrine for a short period. However, at all other times, the men had to remain aboard the train. [redacted] knew of no guards being posted when the train halted.

b. Arrival in East Germany

18. [redacted] 50X1
2 50X1

19. [redacted]

20. About 800 men had arrived [redacted] and about 350 of the men took basic training [redacted] in the same training battalion. An additional 450 men were picked up about 12 km from Siding #77 where [redacted] first boarded the train in Siberia; this other stop was called Siding #76. [redacted] 50X1
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21. All of the men of [redacted] training battalion that came to Germany were of the 1933 and 1934 classes even though some of the men inducted with him had been from the 1930, 1931, and 1932 classes. The men of the 1930, 1931, and 1932 classes remained in the USSR. [redacted] they were presumably assigned to local units in the area and received basic training there. 50X1
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B. Assignment to Unit in East Germany

22. [redacted] 50X1

Assignment of Personnel to Unit

23. At this depot, [redacted] 50X1
[redacted] Capt SHASHNEV (fnu), the battalion Party organizer and Komsomol 50X1
Officer, and Maj TRUBITSEN (fnu), battalion Deputy CO for Line Matters, 50X1
came to the replacement depot the day after his arrival. Capt SHASHNEV
escorted the group of men chosen for the battalion to the battalion
headquarters at Boernicke, while Maj TRUBITSEN stayed at the depot
an additional day and arrived at the headquarters with a second group
of recruits. The total number of new soldiers assigned to the
battalion was approximately 175, but source did not know the point of
origin in the USSR of the second group of recruits. During this two-
day period, no additional recruits were received in the battalion.

24. [redacted] group went by train from Frankfurt/Oder to Berlin where 50X1
they were met by trucks from the battalion and taken to the battalion 50X1
headquarters. At a formation during this initial period, the battalion 50X1
CO, a lieutenant colonel, told them that the unit was an MVD (troop) 50X1
unit. The type of unit was not stated. [redacted] 50X1
[redacted] 50X1

Organization of Unit

25. [redacted] 50X1
[redacted] 50X1

26. The composition of [redacted] company [redacted] was 50X1
as follows: (There were no career NCOs in [redacted] company.) 50X1

Privates

NCOs

Class	Number	Class	Number
1931	20	1931	5
1932	20	1932	5
1933	18	1933	2
1934	18	1934	0

27. [redacted] the composition, by classes, of the rest of the 50X1
battalion was about the same. About one-fourth were from each of the
classes of 1931 through 1934. The 1931-1932 classes came primarily
from Central European Russia while classes 1933 and 1934 were
mostly Siberians.

28. There were about four career NCOs and regular army en- 50X1
listees in the Bn Housekeeping Platoon. These were all the
sverkhstrochniki in the battalion that source knew of.

29. [redacted] 50X1
[redacted] 50X1
[redacted] The story that

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went around about their late demobilization and the late demobilization of the four other garrison battalions was that the Commandant of Berlin, Gen-Maj. DIBROVA, was on leave in the USSR and that Col BADEY who was left in command did not want to assume the responsibility. Therefore, the actual demobilization did not take place until DIBROVA returned.

30. At a company formation [] the
50X1 1931 and 1932 classes were to be demobilized in fall 1954; []
50X1 [] demobilization usually started at the beginning of
50X1 September and was completed by 1 December.

a. Extensions of Service

31. [] the Commandant of East Berlin
50X1 had the authority to extend the tours of men of the Separate Special
50X1 Garrison Battalion for two months. [] all members
50X1 of the class of 1930 were returned to the USSR about the time of
50X1 arrival. []
50X1 []

Reserve Matters

32. [] men were
50X1 automatically put in the reserves at the completion of an active tour
50X1 of duty. Around Aldan, [] soldiers who had been demobilized
in previous years taking training under the supervision of the Aldan
Voyenkomat. When demobilized, all men were placed on reserve status,
took the "110 hours training", and were eligible for recall up to age
of 55 in case of a national emergency.
33. During the first two years after a soldier had been demobilized, he
had no training obligations to fulfill. During the first year, he
did not even have to pay taxes. However, at the beginning of the
third year after demobilization, he was obligated to participate in
actual training. This training was conducted by an officer from the
voyenkomat or by a demobilized officer designated by the voyenkomat.
The men wore no uniforms but attended the training sessions in their
own clothes. They usually met twice a week from 1900 to 2100 hours
and on Sunday from 1500 to 1800 hours. These weekly training sessions
were held in the football stadium. During the summer, they went to
a training area, unknown to source, for about a two-month period. The
reserve group that source knew about had approximately 75 to 100 men.
50X1 These men averaged 25 to 30 years of age although, often, there were
50X1 men up to the age of 40 who seemed to be in supervisory positions.
50X1 The men took extensive training with rifles and SMGs, including
assembly and disassembly of the weapons and range firing: []

- 50X1 [] At the football stadium, [] the
50X1 men taking tactical training. Small-unit infantry tactical training
50X1 was usually conducted by demobilized officers who were designated
by the voyenkomat. The number of hours spent on a subject and the
50X1 subject itself were determined by the voyenkomat. []

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[] identified the above training as the "110 hours of training".

34. []
50X1 []
50X1 one of the officer personnel of the Mining Directorate in Aldan was
recalled to active duty with the army. This man was a captain in the
engineers and was about 37 years old. []
[]

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Punitive Labor Units

35. [redacted] a former major (guardsman-tanker) who
 50X1 was slated for recall. This man was a prisoner in a labor battalion
 50X1 called "zakonvoirovannyi kadr". This battalion, which
 50X1 supplied the necessary labor to carry on activities in the gold fields,
 50X1 had about 2,000 prisoners. [redacted]
 50X1 The man told [redacted]
 50X1 that he was to be given back his rank of major and that all his medals
 50X1 and awards were to be reinstated. [redacted] this man refused
 to go back in the army and attacked a guard who then killed him.
36. The labor battalion was mainly composed of World War II Soviet Army
 50X1 personnel who had been convicted of a crime, but [redacted] did not know
 if their crimes were of a military or civilian nature. Troops who
 called themselves "Okhrana MVD" guarded the labor battalion and
 wore red shoulder boards with light blue piping.

Returnees to the USSR

37. A few men [redacted] were sent back to the USSR on leave or
 50X1 permanently, prior to the completion of their term of service for
 the following reasons:
- 50X1 a. Physical Illness
38. [redacted] Sr Lt Ivan VORONKOV, was returned to the
 USSR in March 1954 for unknown medical reasons. About four EM were
 returned to the USSR for stomach ulcers before the completion of
 their regular tour. These men, in an unidentified hospital in Karls-
 horst, were told by the Military Doctors' Committee (Voyenno-Vrachebnaya
 Komissiya - VVK) that they would be demobilized on their return to
 the USSR.
- b. Injuries
39. No men were returned for physical injuries, and [redacted] did not know
 50X1 to what extent a soldier had to be injured to warrant return to
 the USSR. A soldier [redacted] injured his leg during a
 50X1 routine unit training exercise and was sent to the hospital at
 50X1 Karlshorst. Another soldier in the company was hospitalized for
 50X1 about a year in the same hospital with an ulcer ailment; he was
 still there at the time source defected. [redacted]
 50X1 the man with ulcers was given the
 opportunity to return to the USSR for demobilization but turned
 50X1 down the offer and requested further treatment. [redacted]
 this man was permitted to remain in the hospital.
- c. Political Unreliability
40. There was one man [redacted] who was returned to the USSR
 50X1 for continued drinking and fraternization. A case of this type was
 classified as political unreliability by the Soviet authorities.
 50X1 [redacted] probably many others would have been sent back
 50X1 for the same reasons were it not for the company CO who overlooked
 50X1 such instances. Although fraternization was actually forbidden, it
 50X1 was theoretically permitted for the men [redacted] because
 50X1 they guarded the borders of the zones that separated Berlin. The
 men [redacted] were told that any of the German women could
 be spies for Western powers and that it was for their own protection
 that they should stay away from all of them.

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d. Courts Martial

41. There was one court martial [] during the time []
 50X1 [] in East Germany. A private intentionally shot himself in the
 50X1 leg hoping that the wound would necessitate his being sent back to
 50X1 the USSR for demobilization. The man was taken to the hospital in
 50X1 Berlin/Karlshorst for treatment and then later taken to Bernau for
 court martial. [] later heard rumors that the private was
 sentenced to eight years in prison and returned to the USSR.

e. Transfers

42. There were several EM transferred to other units in Germany and
 50X1 [] the reason was political unreliability, including
 50X1 drinking and fraternization. There were about four of these cases
 50X1 [] from December 1953 to September 1954. []
 50X1 [] there could have been many more such cases except for
 50X1 the lenient disciplinary policies of [] company CO. []
 50X1 [] in the unit, several men had intentionally fratern-
 50X1 ized so that they would be transferred to another unit. []
 50X1 [] an officer, a senior lieutenant, in [] his company
 50X1 was returned to the USSR for fraternization.

43. Approximately 10 men [] were transferred to an
 50X1 unidentified NCO school in Berlin/Karlshorst for 10 period of 10
 50X1 months of training. [] company CO asked the men whom he
 thought had the potential to be NCOs if they wanted to attend such
 a school. If they agreed to attend voluntarily, their names were
 submitted to the battalion CO and they were then transferred to
 the school. The soldiers were told that when they completed the
 school, they were to be given the rank of junior sergeant and were
 to be returned to the company and the platoon in which they had previous-
 ly served. These men were sent to the NCO school at the beginning
 of March and completed the course in time to return to their unit
 before the arrival of new troops in the fall. [] could not
 explain why troops belonging "to an MVD unit" were chosen to attend
 an army school.

f. Compassionate Reasons

44. [] there were three draftees who were granted
 leave for compassionate reasons. In all three cases, the leave
 was granted because of serious illness of the soldier's mother in
 the Soviet Union. In these cases, a request was submitted to the
 soldier's unit through the local voyenkomat by the soldier's family.
 50X1 This procedure was common knowledge [] All three of
 the leaves were approved and the men were granted 10 days, excluding
 travel time. In one of the cases, the soldier was granted an
 additional 15 days leave at his own request. This request went
 through the soldier's local voyenkomat which investigated the
 situation and granted the additional time. The voyenkomat issued
 the soldier an order to this effect and the soldier presented the
 order to his company CO when he returned to the unit.

45. There were no cases of a soldier being permanently returned to the
 USSR for compassionate reasons such as death in his family.

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g. Methods of Travel

46. [redacted] troops which were hospitalized and sent back to the USSR had to be able to travel without any medical assistance. All invalids had to remain in the hospital until they were able to meet this condition. [redacted] did not know of any hospital trains or special hospital railroad cars but [redacted] hospitalized troops used leave trains. [redacted] a leave train left Berlin on the ninth of each month and that one arrived in Berlin from the USSR on either the 27th or 28th of each month. [redacted] prisoners being returned to the USSR also went on this train and traveled in special boxcars with bars on the windows. [redacted] MVD troops guarded these prisoners.

47.

48.

C. Labor Service

49. The Personnel Section (Otdel Kadrov) of individual enterprises was responsible for securing personnel for the labor service in the USSR in peacetime. Individuals seeking employment went to this section, which found employment for them. Factories and agencies which needed labor also used this section to request and obtain needed help. [redacted] several men in Aldan talking to persons in the street and offering to pay their way to an unknown place for employment.

50. [redacted] after finishing a factory school or a tekhnikum, an individual was required to work at least two years at his trade or profession before he was theoretically eligible to be inducted into the armed forces. However, [redacted] this did not always hold true. When [redacted] inducted [redacted] all eligible men in the Aldan region were inducted whether they were attending school or working. This group included some previously-deferred members of the classes of 1931, 1932, 1933, and all of the class of 1934 in the Aldan area. Before the 1953 draft call, all men in their fourth year at the tekhnikum in Aldan were deferred and permitted to complete their course, but in 1953, this privilege was no longer extended [redacted] a friend who was in the fourth year at the tekhnikum studying to be an electrical engineer [redacted] was drafted and [redacted] later learned that he had been sent to a pilot training school.

51.

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[redacted] none of these eligible for the draft in Aldan were deferred.

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D. Utilization of Women in the Soviet Army

52. [redacted] Soviet Army women officers and EW [redacted] went to Berlin/Karlshorst to play soccer. The women [redacted] worked in the hospital there. [redacted] many high-ranking women officers, such as

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50X1 colonels, lieutenant colonels, and women officers of lesser rank. [redacted]
 50X1 they belonged to the medical branch. [redacted]
 50X1 many of these women were
 50X1 doctors, nurses, and hospital aids but he did not learn to what extent
 50X1 they participated in military training. [redacted] a Soviet
 50X1 EW private, received 300 East Marks a month. Although he had never
 50X1 spoken with any Soviet Army women, he heard that some were drafted and
 50X1 that others had volunteered. [redacted]
 50X1 in 1952 and 1953 there was a draft call for women in
 50X1 the central part of the USSR. [redacted] the term of service
 50X1 for Soviet Army women was the same for draftees and volunteers, i.e.,
 50X1 three years.

E. Military Districts

53.

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- (1) East Siberian Military District
- (2) West Siberian Military District
- (3) Moscow Military District
- (4) Transbaikal Military District

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54.

[redacted] did not know how many military districts there were in the USSR
 and had never heard of either a Gorkiy or a Voronezh military district.

F. Military Education in Civilian Schools

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[redacted] attended only five classes in school and during that time no
 military education or training was offered. [redacted]
 there was no military education offered in classes one
 through nine. During the war, rifle and SMG instruction was given
 in the 9th class. But with the end of World War II, this instruction
 ceased. [redacted] no knowledge of military education in the colleges
 or other institutions of higher learning. The DOSAAF in Aldan offered
 several military training programs. Among these were driver training-
 truck and tractor- airborne jump training, and weapons training. The
 driver-training course lasted six months and a student had to pay a
 400-ruble enrollment fee to take the course. Airborne training
 included parachute folding, lecture classes, and practice jump
 training. During summer 1949, some unidentified jumpers parachuted
 from a plane over the Aldan airfield. At the Aldan civilian airport,
 there was a wooden jump tower which accommodated only one man [redacted]

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Comment: Presumably this course was completed in less than
 10 months.

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